

Perhaps it was a custom with Joseph to receive his audience in the morning of the day, to all the strangers, who came from foreign countries. On these occasions we may picture to ourselves Joseph in this exalted character, sitting in a splendid apartment, with all the ensignia of greatness about him: at his right hand stood the steward of his house, ready to receive his commands, and to communicate them to more menial servants; on his left hand, was his interpreter, a man deeply versed in languages, who told Joseph, in the Egyptian tongue, what the foreigners said in their own language; and likewise interpreted to him the answers of his Lord. The intense heat of the season and climate, rendered necessary every means that could be used, to keep the apartments cool: to effect this, the front is screened by nothing but a row of beautiful marble pillars, which support a triumphal arch, which was so contrived, as to prevent the entrance of the sun's beams.

This opened to a view of the gardens, where flowers, in graceful variety, adorn the mazy walks, and the rich foliage of a thousand trees form a most grateful shade. Here fountains incessantly play, and distant cascades faintly murmur through the grove.

Adjoining to the room, in which Joseph sat, was an extensive hall, where the architecture would easily prepossess the minds of strangers, with enlarged views of the beauty and strength of the whole mansion. This place was crowded with those who waited for admission to him. Among the rest, we may suppose his brothers stood, spending these moments of delay in conversation with those about them; and, perhaps, with particular enquiries concerning the person and address of the great personage they were about to be introduced to.

Presently they were admitted into his presence, and